

Dementia Cal MediConnect Grant Update

Purpose: This 3-year Administration for Community Living grant was awarded to the California Department of Aging in 2013. It seeks to build a dementia capable, integrated system of care for people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias who are enrolled in Cal MediConnect. These managed care plans will integrate health, behavioral, and home and community-based services for people enrolled in both Medicare and Medi-Cal. Working with select Cal MediConnect health plans and with the Alzheimer's Association in both Southern and Northern California, this project will:

- Train 100 care managers at the health plans to provide better disease education and support to people with dementia and their family caregivers;
- Identify and train key personnel at each plan to be a "Dementia Care Specialist," who both serves these plan members and is an internal resource to the plan's care managers;
- Educate 200 family caregivers of people with dementia, using evidence-based education programs like "Savvy Caregiver" whenever possible; and
- Provide limited grant-funded respite and other direct services to these individuals and their families.

UCSF's Institute for Health and Aging is conducting the grant evaluation.

Progress to Date:

- A steering committee has been formed and has had active participation from the Departments of Aging, Health Care Services and Public Health, as well as the two participating Alzheimer's Association chapters and UCSF.
- A care manager training program, including training materials, has been developed.
- Alzheimer's Association staff in Northern and Southern California who will be conducting the training have been trained on the curriculum.
- In June, the first set of about 30 care managers will be trained at HealthNet (Los Angeles) and the Health Plan of San Mateo. Two other plans have indicated interest in this training.
- A more in depth training program is being developed for "Dementia Care Specialists" at the participating health plans. This training will be based on the evidence-based ACCESS Project protocols, which demonstrated that care managers using these protocols had better care outcomes and offered better care processes for patients with dementia.
- One health plan has already made some significant system changes to better identify and serve this population.